

Unit 4: African American Art

Content Area: **Art**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Full Year**
Length: **8 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit 4: African American Art

Unit Rationale

The purpose of this unit is to...

- Teach students about the many outstanding African American artists whose artwork was accomplished because of technical proficiency that depicted important subject matter personal to them. Two of these artists were Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence.

Essential Questions

- Why is there a month for African American contributions, but not for other ethnicities or nationalities?

Pre-Assessments

As students enter the art room, they will receive a blank piece of paper. They will be asked to write what they notice about the African Art displayed on the board. Based on their observations, the educator will be able to see what features of African art stand out most to the students.

Instructional Plan

See description below for Lesson 1.

Lesson 1: African American Portrait Painting

Student Learning Intentions or We are learning to/that ... (WALT)

- Students will know that both of these artists were influenced by the Harlem Renaissance a cultural development and movement in NYC in which there was a flowering of the arts (music, visual art, dance, literature and theatre(1919- mid 1930's).
- There was much interplay, connectedness and inter discipline influence between the different art forms.

Student Success Criteria ... “I can statements”

- Draw the figure and/or portrait.
- Mix and use different tints, shades and reduced intensities with tempera paints for painting figure/portrait.
- Mix skin tones.
- Draw and paint facial features.

Instructional Strategies and Activities

Lesson 1: African American Portraiture/Figure Drawing

- Students will complete the pre-assessment described above.
- The teacher will read either one of Jacob Lawrence's illustrated books, *The Story of John Brown*, *One Man Against Slavery* or *The Story of Harriet Tubman*.
- Students will research a famous African American and find a photograph of them that has enough visual detail to work from.
- Students will make a portrait of them, either full body or shoulders neck and head. Meaningful details and symbols can be added if appropriate (for instance: music notes in background for musician, gavel for judge, etc.
- Students will use the simple shape technique going from large, unrefined shapes to more complex shapes and contours.
- Teacher will demonstrate mixing skin tones.
- Tempera paints will be used though elements can also be collaged on.

Formative Assessments:

Throughout the process of creating a themed color wheel, students will be evaluated using the following methods:

- **The educator may question individuals or the class as a whole for understanding of concepts.**
- **The educator may look at individual works in progress to check for understanding.**
 - Did students choose person of fine character and notable and constructive contribution?
 - Did students bring photograph with sufficient detail to do a shape drawing?
 - Are students starting with a shape drawing and proceeding to a more complex and accurate contour?
 - Does student know how to mix good skin tones?
 - Is student using a variety of tints, shades and reduced intensity colors?
 - Is craftsmanship good? Can student control paintbrush?
 - Did students do research paper on artist and one of their artworks?

Instructional Materials and Resources

Student Supplies: Pre-assessment paper, photograph of historical African American, paper, pencil, eraser,

tempera paint, collage materials, paint brushes, water cups

Educator Materials: Historical African American painting lesson sample, photograph of historical African American, paper, pencil, eraser, tempera paint, collage materials, paint brushes, water cups

Reflections and Suggested Modifications

To be reflected upon by the educator at the completion of the unit.

Modifications and/or Accommodations

Suggested Modifications (ELL, Sp. Ed, Gifted, At-risk of Failure)

English Language Learners

Native language support: The teacher provides auditory or written content to students in their native language.

Adjusted Speech: The teacher changes speech patterns to increase student comprehension. This could include facing the students, paraphrasing, clearly indicating the most important ideas, and speaking more slowly.

Visuals: The teacher uses graphics, pictures, visuals, and manipulatives. This helps ELL students better understand and comprehend the subjects at hand.

Front-Loading Vocabulary: The teacher front loads vocabulary. This means providing students with a list of important vocabulary words they will need to know for a book, lesson, etc. prior to the lesson being taught. Including pictures to go with the vocabulary words is also very beneficial for the students.

Special Education Students

Chunking: The teacher presents information in a way that makes it easy for students to understand and remember. Chunking is based on the presumption that our working memory is easily overloaded by excessive detail. The best way to deliver information is to organize it into meaningful units. Because students with special needs get overloaded easily, chunking is an effective strategy to use with them.

Checking for Understanding: It is important to constantly check for understanding, especially for students who have accommodations. Teachers want to make sure students understand the concepts being covered in a way that makes sense to them.

Extra time: The teacher provides students with special needs extra time to complete work or answer questions. It is important to give students enough time to process their thoughts.

Oral Reading: The teacher will read work orally to students. Class work such as tests and literature circles may need to be read aloud to the student.

Timers: The teacher will use timers as an instructional tool. The use of timers is beneficial for students who have trouble completing tasks. Timers can be helpful so the student is aware of how much time they have to complete an assignment.

Students with 504 Plans

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Gifted & Talented Strategies

Extensions/Enrichments: Teachers will provide gifted and talented students with extension/enrichment projects. Students will be challenged to further their understanding, to apply acquired knowledge, and/or to produce something in reference to acquired knowledge.

Modify/Change Activities: Teachers will monitor and modify activities to accommodate those students who need to be challenged further. Additional reading, problem-solving, writing, or project work is necessary for those students who are ready to move on at a rate more accelerated than their peers. In this way, G & T students are provided the same opportunity for support as special needs students.

Students at Risk of School Failure

Directions or Instructions: Make sure directions and/or instructions are given in limited numbers. Give directions/instructions verbally and in simple written format. Ask students to repeat the instructions or directions to ensure understanding occurs. Check back with the student to ensure he/she hasn't forgotten.

Peer Support: Peers can help build confidence in other students by assisting in peer learning. Many teachers use the 'ask 3 before me' approach. This is fine, however, a student at risk may have to have a specific student or two to ask. Set this up for the student so he/she knows who to ask for

clarification before going to you.

Alternate or Modified Assignments: Always ask yourself, "How can I modify this assignment to ensure the students at risk are able to complete it?" Sometimes you'll simplify the task, reduce the length of the assignment or allow for a different mode of delivery. For instance, many students may hand something in, the at-risk student may jot notes and give you the information verbally. Or, it just may be that you will need to assign an alternate assignment.

Increase One to One Time: When other students are working, always touch base with your students at risk and find out if they're on track or needing some additional support. A few minutes here and there will go a long way to intervene as the need presents itself.

Contracts: It helps to have a working contract between you and your students at risk. This helps prioritize the tasks that need to be done and ensure completion happens. Each day write down what needs to be completed, as the tasks are done, provide a checkmark or happy face. The goal of using contracts is to eventually have the student come to you for completion sign-offs.

Hands On: As much as possible, think in concrete terms and provide hands-on tasks. This means a child doing math may require a calculator or counters. The child may need to tape record comprehension activities instead of writing them. A child may have to listen to a story being read instead of reading it him/herself.

Tests/Assessments: Tests can be done orally if need be. Break tests down in smaller increments by having a portion of the test in the morning, another portion after lunch and the final part the next day.

Seating: Seat students near a helping peer or with quick access to the teacher. Those with hearing or sight issues need to be close to the instruction which often means near the front.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards: Content Area

VA.3-5.1.5.5.Cr2a	Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches, through invention and practice.
VA.3-5.1.5.5.Cn10a	Create works of art that reflect community cultural traditions. Discuss using formal and conceptual vocabulary.
VA.3-5.1.5.5.Cn11	Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural and historical contexts to deepen understanding.
VA.3-5.1.5.5.Cn11a	Communicate how art is used to inform the values, beliefs and culture of an individual or society.

Integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Climate Change, Informational and Media Literacy

Integration of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Students will research a historical African American figure and create a painting of them. Students are practicing color mixing skills when creating the skin tone of their chosen figure. Throughout this process, the students are learning about the figure's historical impact while also portraying them in an artistic way. The

research students are completing on their figures influences the final artwork they make. At the end of the unit, students will conduct a "museum walk" critique that will give them the opportunity to provide feedback to each other and observe their work. They will collaborate on ideas, share their constructive criticisms, and embrace the differences in each of their paintings.

Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
WRK.9.1.2.CAP	Career Awareness and Planning

Integration of Computer Science and Design Thinking

CS.K-2.8.2.2.ITH.4	Identify how various tools reduce work and improve daily tasks.
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21st Century Life and Career

CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.
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Interdisciplinary Connections: NJSLs for ELA, Social Studies, Science and/or Math

SOC.K-12.3	Seeking Diverse Perspectives
ELA.SL.PE.K.1	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.